

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3665  
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005  
TASK FORCE FOR WILD ANIMALS  
Rawat Shri Kamla Prasad;Subba Shri Moni Kumar

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether any task force was constituted, considering threats from large scale natural disasters and epidemics that could wipeout the entire population of the animal species from the State of Assam ;
- (b) if so, the details regarding the number of rhinos/one homed rhinos at present in different States, State-wise ;
- (c) whether there is any partnership with World Wide Fund for nature-India and the International Rhino Foundation ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof ;
- (e) whether India is supplying one horned rhinos to other countries; and
- (f) if so, the number of one-horned rhinos supplied to foreign countries during the last three years ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) As reported by Government of Assam a Task Force for translocation of Rhino has been constituted in Assam. However, no threats from large scale natural disasters and epidemics are envisaged. The project has been taken to relocate the rhinos in its original distributions.

(b) The number of Rhinos at present in the different States are as follows :

| S.No. | Name of State | Rhino Population |
|-------|---------------|------------------|
| 1     | Assam         | 1672             |
| 2     | West Bengal   | 121              |
| 3     | Uttar Pradesh | 22               |

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The project is also supported by World Wide Fund for nature- India and International Rhino Foundation. Technical expertise of these organizations, based on their international experience, will assist successful implementation of the project.

(e) & (f) All exchanges of animals between zoos, including one horned rhinos, are done strictly in accordance with the norms laid down by the Central Zoo Authority. No one horned rhino has been supplied to foreign zoos/countries from Indian zoos during the last three years.